

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

DRC-01 SAJ-01 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 /213 W

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R 121945Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6806

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USINT CAIRO

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 3809

BEIRUT ALSO PASS USINT DAMASCUS

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GENEVA FOR CSCE AND MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EES, XF, US, ENRG, XA, FR

SUBJECT: EC RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS

REF: BONN 2180 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THE QUAI HAS CONFIRMED OTHER REPORTS ABOUT EC PLANS FOR EUROPEAN-ARAB COOPERATION. FRANCE WOULD LIKE TO ESTABLISH SIMILAR COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH AFRICA. IT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE GREAT POWER GUARANTEES ARE REQUIRED IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE PROPOSAL FOR EC RECONSTRUCTION AID TO THE NEAR EAST HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. EVEN DISAPPOINTMENT OVER RESULTS OF THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, SHOULD SUCH BE CASE, IS UNLIKELY TO WEAKEN AGGRESSIVE FRENCH POLICY INITIATIVES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING FEBRUARY 12 LUNCH WITH EMBOFF, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE LEVANT ROUILLON SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE GERMANS HAD ALREADY INFORMED THE US BOTH IN BONN AND WASHINGTON ABOUT EC PLANS FOR COOPERATION WITH THE ARABS. (HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO CONVERSATIONS MENTIONED IN REFTEL.) IN GENERAL, ROUILLON CONFIRMED EC PLANS AND TIMING AS REPORTED BY US EMBASSIES IN OTHER EC CAPITALS.

3. IN COMMENTING ON THE MATTER, ROUILLON RECALLED THE LONG-HELD FRENCH BELIEF THAT THE COMPLIMENTARY INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRIES OF EUROPE, THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE ARAB WORLD SHOULD BE COORDINATED. HE DESCRIBED THE EUROPEAN PROPOSALS, WHICH HE EXPECTED THE EC MINISTERS TO APPROVE THIS WEEK, AS THE NINE'S RESPONSE TO THE ARAB MINISTERS' DEMARCH AT COPENHAGEN. HE STRESSED THAT THE EUROPEAN ACTION VIS-A-VIS THE ARABS IS NOT NECESSARILY IN CONFLICT WITH US EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE COOPERATION ON OIL PROBLEMS THROUGH THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. INTERESTINGLY, ROUILLON ADDED THAT THE FRENCH HOPE THAT ONCE EURO-ARABIAN COOPERATION IS ESTABLISHED, THE EC WILL MAKE A SIMILAR OFFER OF BROAD-SCALE, ECONOMIC TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL COOPERATION TO AFRICA.

4. ROUILLON SAID THAT THE NEXT ITEM FOR SERIOUS STUDY
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BY THE EC MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS IS THAT OF EUROPEAN GUARANTEES FOR AN EVENTUAL NEAR EASTERN SETTLEMENT. WHILE THE ORIGINAL EC SIX STILL SUPPORT THE EC 1971 PAPER ON MIDDLE EASTERN POLICY, THE THREE NEW MEMBERS HAVE NOT YET ADHERED TO IT. THE FRENCH, SAID ROUILLON, CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE TWO SUPER-POWERS SHOULD PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN ANY UN FORCE IF IT IS TO BE EFFECTIVE IN POLICING A SETTLEMENT; AS A MINIMUM, BRITAIN AND FRANCE, OR AT LEAST ITALY AND GERMANY

SHOULD BE INCLUDED SINCE SMALL POWERS LIKE NIGERIA AND NORWAY SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT WEIGHT EFFECTIVELY TO GUARANTEE ANY AGREEMENT.

5. AS FOR THE NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL FOR EUROPEAN RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE TO THE MIDDLE EAST, ROUILLON THOUGHT IT WAS NOW ALMOST DEAD. NONE OF THE NINE HAD OPPOSED IT, SAID ROUILLON, BUT EVENTS HAD OVERTAKEN IT. WITH THE HIKE IN OIL PRICES, EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION SIMPLY WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANY SIGNIFICANT EC FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO NEAR EASTERN RECONSTRUCTION. HE DESCRIBED THE ALREADY PROJECTED MODEST EC AID TO PALESTINIAN REFUGEES AND EDUCATION AS THE MAXIMUM THAT COULD COME FROM THE NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL WHICH HE TERMED AN "UNDERSTANDABLE REACTION" TO THE ARAB BOYCOTT.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE THE OBVIOUS IMPACT OF WHAT HE TERMED "OVER-DRAMATIZED" REPORTS IN TODAY'S PRESS ABOUT FRENCH "ISOLATION" AT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, BOUILLON WAS EBULLIENT ABOUT THE SUCCESS FRANCE HAS HAD IN SELLING ITS EC PARTNERS ITS IDEAS ON EUROPEAN-ARAB COOPERATION. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT ANY SET-BACK FOR FRENCH

POLICY AT WASHINGTON IS UNLIKELY TO DETER FRENCH EFFORTS TO PUSH THEIR AMBITIOUS PLANS WITH THE COMMUNITY.
IRWIN

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